

modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected area as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action. Government have also renewed their appeal to militant groups to come forward for talks. Government are also committed to speedy economic development of the North-Eastern States.

Terrorist nabbed/killed during Ramzan ceasefire

1190. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorist nabbed and killed during the Ramzan ceasefire declared by the Prime Minister;

(b) the number of security personnel targeted and killed by terrorist outfits during the ceasefire; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to minimize the casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) 227 and 82 terrorists were killed and apprehended respectively during the period of Ramzan Peace Initiative from 28.11.2000 to 25.2.2001.

(b) 91 Security Force personnel were killed during the same period.

(c) Strategies being followed by the Security forces and intelligence agencies are regularly reviewed and refined at various levels including in the Unified Headquarters keeping in view the ground situation and available intelligence inputs.

Judicial Commission to investigate politico-militant nexus in North-East

1191. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Judicial Commission to investigate the allegation of politico-militant nexus in the North-East;

(b) if so, by when it will be commissioned; and

(c) if not, why it has been out in the Press?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a Judicial Commission to investigate the allegations of Government functionaries- militant nexus is under consideration of the Government. No final decision in the matter has yet been taken by the Government.

Safeguarding the Life and Property of Sikhs in J&K

1192. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what sort of assistance/aid have been given by the Central Government to the State Government of J&K to protect and safeguard the life and property of Sikh community from the terrorist/militant onslaughts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): Pan-Islamic outfits operating in J&K keep trying to create a communal divide by resorting to in-group killing of members of minority communities and thereby creating an atmosphere of fear with the aim to ethnic cleansing and forcing their exodus. To prevent it, the State Government have taken various preventive/confidence building measures which *inter-alia* include:

- Strengthening the Village Defence Committee system by providing them Training and improved weaponry and communication equipment;
- Strengthening the security grid around the minority inhabited villages;
- Increased frequency of patrolling by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas;
- Visits by State Government and security force officers to remote and minority villages.

After the incidents of Mehjoor Nagar, the State Government had further reviewed the security arrangements for minorities and remote and scattered population. In addition there is a constant monitoring of the security situation by the respective Unified Headquarters level at Jammu & Srinagar as well as in Operations groups at various lower levels with a view to dynamic deployment and adoption of strategies by the security forces to meet the various challenges being thrown up by the terrorists.